

Issue: EPA/Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Cooperative Relationship Accelerates Cleanup at the Allied Paper, Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site – Kalamazoo, Michigan

Messages:

- EPA and MDEQ have made significant cleanup progress over the last decade at the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River site, working cooperatively and utilizing combined resources.
- All sources of polychlorinated biphenyls to the river from land-based operable units, including various landfills and former paper mill properties, have been controlled.
- EPA and MDEQ are working with the City of Kalamazoo to ensure cleanup and potential redevelopment of the Allied Landfill.

Background/Status: The site was listed on the National Priorities List in August 1990 and consists of four landfills, five former paper mill properties, approximately 77 miles of the Kalamazoo River from Morrow Lake dam to Lake Michigan, and a three-mile stretch of Portage Creek – all contaminated with PCBs. EPA and MDEQ have worked in close partnership over the last ten years, making effective use of combined resources to ensure that the potentially responsible parties conduct technically-sound, cost-effective cleanups. To date, five time-critical removal actions in the river and/or creek – the fifth currently underway – have resulted in the excavation of 365,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediment and soil from 9 miles of waterway and the removal of two dams. The project team is currently overseeing several different activities, including a removal action in a 1.7-mile stretch of the river near Otsego, Michigan, remedial design work in the uppermost 22 miles of the river, and remedial investigation/feasibility study work in many other areas of the river. Additionally, EPA and MDEQ successfully collaborated with the local community to incorporate reuse and long-term stewardship into the remedy selection process for the Allied Paper Landfill, with that remedy currently undergoing remedial design. In a support agency capacity, MDEQ actively participates in technical matters and in EPA's extensive community outreach activities, including quarterly public meetings, fact sheets, newsletters, a list-serve, site tours, and individual outreach to smaller stakeholder groups.

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